



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

DORE AND BREEDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1939.

County Offices,  
3, Alton Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dore and Breedwardine Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lucas-Scudamore and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health Services of the District for the year 1939.

The Report appears much later than usual, but the Council will appreciate that, a considerable portion of my time has had to be devoted to more urgent matters.

This Report, is abbreviated in accordance with Circulars 1961 and 2067 of the Ministry of Health and is to be regarded only as an interim Report.

I have to acknowledge the support which the Council has always afforded me in the discharge of my duties at all times. In addition I have to thank Mr. F. Craze Clerk to the Council, Miss Sayce, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. D.J. Francis Sanitary Inspector for Assistance in the preparation of this Report and for much help given during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lucas-Scudamore, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG.

Medical Officer of Health.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., BS., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health.

P.G. HANCOX, A.R.S.I., R.S.I.A., (Resigned 26th Feb:1939.)

A.A. EDWARDS, (Appointed 1st March 1939).

Public Health Department,  
County Council Offices,  
Alton Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.

Telephone -- Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

DAVID J. FRANCIS, C.M.S.I., (H.S.I.A.)

Telephone -- Peterchurch 241.      Urishay House,  
Peterchurch.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 66,043.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population 7,140.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959) according to Rate Books  
2,140.

Rateable Value £20,890.

Sum represented by a penny rate £95. 7. 5d.

The Rural District of Dore and Wardwardine is entirely agricultural in character.

Unemployment.

There appears to be little unemployment in the District.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

Live Births

	Total. Males. Females.				
Legitimate	91	45	46	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the est-	
Illegitimate	6	4	2	imated resident population	13.6
Still-births	4	1	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)	
				births.	39.6
Deaths	99	43	56	Death Rate per 1,000 of the est-	
				imated resident population	
				crude	13.9

Adjusted Death Rate (Factor 0.77) ..... 10.7

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29.- Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30.- Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	30.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	167.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17
" Measles (all ages)	Nil
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers :-

A list of the Public Health Officers of the Authority is given on Page 1. of this Report.

Laboratory Facilities:-

The following is a summary of the number of specimens examined at the County and City Laboratory, Hereford, from the District during the year :-

Swabs for Diphtheria .....	57
Swabs for Streptococci .....	9
Sputa .....	11

Water :-

Chemical .....	29
Bacteriological .....	40

TOTAL ..... 116

### Hospitals :-

When necessary, cases of infectious diseases are removed to Hereford Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital situated at Stretton Sugwas.

### SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water :-

During the year 29 samples of water were sent to the Laboratory for chemical examination, 9 of these showed the water to be unfit for drinking purposes. In addition, 40 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination and 30 of these were found to be unsatisfactory.

The most important change in the water supplies of the District was the completion of the new water scheme for the Parish of Dorstone. This scheme utilises water from springs on high ground and supplies the Parish by gravitation. The water is of excellent quality and more than adequate for the demands of the Parish. The works were carried out under the supervision of the architect to the Council, Mr. C.E.T. Booth.

#### Drainage and Sewerage :-

There have been no important changes during the year. All reconstructed properties have been provided with proper drainage systems and septic tanks.

#### Closet Accommodation :-

During the period under review, 14 privies were converted to pail closets and 9 privies were replaced by chemical closets. In addition 14 privies were converted to water closets.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs :-

Two houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, and were treated with Zaldecide by the Sanitary Inspector with apparent success.

#### Inspections :-

Slaughterhouses and Shops .....	360
Bakehouses .....	28
Schools .....	12
Water Supplies .....	94
Nuisances .....	40
Factories .....	30
Fruit and Hop-pickers' accommodation .....	101
Infectious Disease .....	113
Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	242
Other Housing Inspections .....	407
Cowsheds and Stables .....	331
Petrol and Oil Stores .....	38
Miscellaneous .....	1769

## Notices Issued :-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Statutory, re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Statutory under other Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

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## Summary of Defects Remedied :-

Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	23
New Drains Laid	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drains Cleansed, Trapped or Ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective Waste Pipes Rectified	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective Sinks and Urinals Rectified	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	22
Water Closets repaired, Ventilated or provided with Cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	6
Privies converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	14
Privies converted to Chemical Closets	...	...	...	...	...	9
Privies converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	16
New Pail Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	29
Pail Closets Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	17
Offensive Refuse Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughter Houses Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	-
New Wells Sunk	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wells Cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Rooms Disinfected re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	113
Schools Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public Vehicles Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dwelling Houses Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2

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## Schools :-

The new Council School at Michaelchurch was completed and is very satisfactory being equipped with modern sanitation and other amenities which are so often lacking in rural schools.

## School Closures :-

<u>School.</u>	<u>Period.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>
Dorstone	1.2.39 - 10. 2.39	Coughs and Colds.
Orcop C.	2.3.39 - 10. 3.39	Influenza.
Wormbridge C of E	28.3.39 - 31. 3.39	Influenza.
Wormbridge C of E	3.4.39 - 6. 4.39	Influenza.
Madley C	26.6.39 - 7. 7.39	Measles.
Madley C	10.7.39 - 14. 7.39	Measles.
Madley C	17.7.39 - 21. 7.39	Measles.
Madley C	24.7.39 - 28. 7.39	Measles.

## SECTION D. - HOUSING:-

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING- HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected  
for housing defects (under Public Health or  
Housing Acts) ... 649
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 649
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under  
sub-head (1) above) which were inspected  
and recorded under the Housing Consolidated  
"regulations, 1925 and 1932" ... 242
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 256



(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 11

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 52

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 52

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :-

(a) - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-

(a) By owners ... 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...

(b) - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ... 7

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...

(c) - Proceedings under sections 11 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 3

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 7

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were Made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

## 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, - Part IV. - OVERCROWDING :-

(a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 3

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 3

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 23

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 1

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 2

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 15

(d) - Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

## SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :-

### Milk Supply :-

There are 377 premises in the District registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The number of inspections of registered premises made during 1939 was 331. As a result of these inspections, 12 cow-sheds were found not to be properly cleansed, and this was remedied by the informal action of the Sanitary Inspector. Speaking generally, limewashing is carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	210	9	25	1,000	210
Number inspected	200	9	25	960	205
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT</u>					
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	"	"	"	5	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	4	1	21	27
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis	16%	44%	4%	2.4%	14.5%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	"	"	"	"	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	3	"	"	33
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	14.5%	33%	"	"	16.5%

The Sanitary Inspector also makes inspections of food shops from time to time. During the year, 116wt. 14lbs. of meat was surrendered for destruction in addition to 14 tins of fruit and 3lbs. of cooked meat.

## SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Two important changes occurred during the year with regard to notification of disease. By becoming into operation on the 1st October, of Sec on 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, cases of food poisoning became notifiable; and measles and whooping Cough became notifiable on 23rd October under the measles and whooping Cough Regulations, 1939

### NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED :-

Scarlet Fever.	...	...	...	...	...	38
Diphtheria.	...	...	...	...	...	6
Enteric Fever.	...	...	...	...	...	"
Pneumonia.	...	...	...	...	...	14
Puerperal Pyrexia.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas.	...	...	...	...	...	"
Whooping Cough.	...	...	...	...	...	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	1

# HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

The following cases received treatment in Hospital during the year :-

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

## TUBERCULOSIS :-

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory.	Total
Cases on Register at commencement of year:	3	6	15
Cases added to register during year:	6	4	10
Cases removed from register during year:	5	..	5
Cases remaining on register at end of year:	10	10	20

